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FORM NO. 241  
1 FEB 55

**REPLACES FORM 36-8  
WHICH MAY BE USED.**

(47)

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19 March 1987

NOTE FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT: Bar Code Study

1. In regard to the General Electric Bar Code Study, the following is my assessment of the report as it pertains to Supply Division (SD) and the Logistics Operations Center (LOC). The report has some excellent recommendations, some operations were missed or overlooked, and some recommendations were made based on misconceptions of operational procedures. Savings quoted appear to be over estimated, cost of hardware underestimated, and the development cost of software which has not been estimated will, in all probability, be substantial. Observations/comments are provided in the following paragraphs with questions reserved for the last.

2. The electronic requisition and stand alone [redacted] [redacted] are concepts that have been under study by the Office of Logistics (OL) for some time and will not be addressed.

3. In regard to [redacted] the recommended changes are straight forward, logical, should provide greater operational [redacted]

4. The Logistics Integrated Management System (LIMS) was going to provide many of the custom applications covered in the study, eg computer generated packing lists, transportation documents, etc. When the LIMS effort was replaced by the Commercial Logistics Applications System (CLAS), many of these applications were assumed to be lost. However, the use of local area networks (LAN) operating independently but retrieving and transmitting data to a central database on a mainframe computer appears to provide the capability for any custom application independent of the operations of the main database.

5. LANs appear to offer tremendous versatility, numerous benefits, and in my estimation, is the best way to proceed under CLAS provided costs are not prohibitive and the concerns addressed in paragraph eight can be satisfied. We assume

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25X1 the LAN can be interfaced with virtually any mainframe database and will require custom designed software for the interface. We also assume each application will also require custom software. Use of LANs should reduce the need for making changes to CLAS but past experience with LIMS and bar coding at [ ] has proven custom software to be extremely expensive. Cost estimates for custom software will have a major impact on how to proceed.

25X1 6. We believe the recommendation for a LAN in Supply Management Branch (SMB) was made on a misunderstanding of operational procedures and under current conditions, SMB can not justify the use of a LAN. However, the study overlooked a major area which should be explored. Data Control Branch (DCB), Contract Information Branch (CONIF), Procurement Division (PD), and SMB all use the same data in one form or another. If all concerned were working from a LAN, repetitive typing and data inputs could be virtually eliminated. Requisitioning data could be extracted for use in contracts or contracting information could be used to update the ICS, CLAS, GAS, or other databases as required.

8. Request additional information be provided regarding the following:

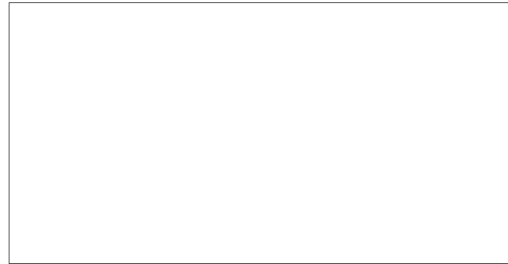
25X1 A. Currently there are approximately [ ] active  
25X1 records in the ICS, [ ] stock issues and [ ]  
procurement actions. If only selected fields were  
downloaded to a LAN and uploaded to the ICS, the total  
volume of data would be significant. Can the file  
server handle this much data? What are the  
limitations on the quantity of data that can be  
manipulated efficiently? What safety checks will be  
in the system to insure data transmitted and received  
was not scrambled or lost during transfer?

B. If a record is down loaded to more than one LAN  
and data is updated by users on different systems, how  
will the information uploaded to the ICS be processed  
to insure all data provided by both users is included  
in the updated ICS record?

C. How often will data be transferred between the LANs and the host computer? Will all data be transferred or only data from records that have been modified? Can the LAN continue to function during the transfer?

D. R:base System V software is being recommended for our applications. According to the data provided in the attachment, System V can not accommodate more than five users on a network. Since we will have several times this number, how can this limitation be overcome?

25X1 9. If you have any questions or need additional information, please give me a call



25X1 OL/SD/SMB

19 March 1987

Distribution:

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